the committee soon to make a return of 4½ per cent. on the outlay.

Liverpool.—While the paviers have been recently tearing up the stones of Castle-street, and carting them away, till hardly one block was left in the whole avenue, a curious observer might have seen that there was one stone, and one only, which they treated with marked respect, which they left entirely unmolested, not venturing to remove it one inch from its resting-place. A few old people who knew of it will tell you that it was formerly called "the liberty stone," and those who are familiar with the customs of the olden time know that it has for ages marked the boundary in this direction of the privileged ground, within which debtors could not be arrested on borough process during the continuance of the Liverpool fair. The fair, as our readers may know, is still annually proclaimed; and, during the 14 days, debtors are still safe under its protecting influence.—*Liverpool Times.*

Salford, near Bath.—The parish church was reopened for Divine service on Thursday the 13th inst. It has undergone extensive repairs and alteration. The chancel and vestry have been partially rebuilt, and a stained window placed in the east end; the floor paved with Minton's encaustic tiles; three new windows erected; and the whole has been repewed, and a new gallery constructed. An organ has been placed in the gallery. The funds, aided by a grant of 40*l.* from the Diocesan Church Building Society, were raised solely by private subscription through the exertion of the Rev. E. Whitehead, the rector. The works were executed under the superintendence of Mr. Lamoroch Flower, of Keynsham. The fittings are by Mr. James Smith, of Bath.

Sheerness.—On Thursday in week before last, the first stone of a new county court was laid here. The site on which the building is to be erected is at the western extremity of the high-street of Blue Town, and on the south side of the street. Houses formerly stood on the spot, but in 1818 several of them being destroyed by fire, the Government purchased the ground, it being then contemplated to take a large portion of Blue Town into the dock-yard: subsequently, some adjoining houses were purchased by the Government and taken down, and for many years the space lay as a waste piece of land, and a receptacle for all kinds of nuisances, till about two or three years since a new "lock-up" house was erected at one end, and the whole walled in; and now, by the erection of a new court-house, the whole will be occupied, and the two buildings will be an improvement to that part of the town.

Windsor.—It was stated the other day in council, by the chairman of a committee for the repair of the town-hall, that they had procured a plan and estimate from Mr. Hardwick, and invited the tradesmen of the borough to tender for the works. The lowest tender was the one sent in by Mr. Holden, for 899*l.*, and that tender had been accepted. Mr. Hardwick signed the contract, and the works were forthwith commenced. During the progress of the repairs, it was found that the pediment at the south end was in a bad state, and a new pediment had been erected at an additional expense of 30*l.* There was only 30*l.* difference between the highest and the lowest tenders. A councillor complained that the whole of the tenders were higher than the architect's estimate. He also suggested, however, a farther increase, in the restoration of the wainscot mouldings, to accord with the new ceiling, and to form panels for the corporation pictures. The old chandeliers, it was thought, would also require to be replaced by others, unless converted into gasiliers, as suggested by the architect.

Hawkesworth.—The chancel of the old church of this village having fallen into disrepair, the Rev. J. H. Smytton, the rector, determined to pull it down, and entirely rebuild it. This has been done under the superintendence of Mr. Bailey, of Newark, and is now nearly completed. The east window is a composition by Wailes, comprising, in the three lights, the Nativity, the Baptism, the Last Supper, and full-length figures, with legends of our Saviour, the Virgin, and Saint John.

Burnley.—The foundation-stone of the Mechanics' Institution building is to be laid on 25th inst. The building is to cost upwards of 3,000*l.*, more than half of which has already been subscribed in free contributions.

Sunderland.—The new congregational chapel erected within the last six months, at a cost of about 2,000*l.*, and capable of accommodating nearly 1,100 persons, was opened on Thursday, in week before last. The style of the building is Italian, and the structure is of stone, with vermiculated groins at the angles. The principal front has a Corinthian portico, and the tympanum of the pediment is broken by the segment of the cornice; which forms an arch over the large western window. The ceiling is divided into three compartments, separated by light cast-iron columns, carried up from the ground, and forming arches between them. The caps of the columns are painted white and gilt; and behind the pulpit is a recess with Corinthian pilasters painted to imitate sienna marble. The ventilation is provided for by the whole of the foul air being removed into a large receiving shaft at the end of the building. The architect was Mr. Thomas Oliver, jun., of Sunderland.

Gateshead.—We have been to see the gas-light at Allhusen and Co.'s manufactory, South Shore, and have now returned to the inferior gas-light in the High-street,—the former made from the Cannel coal of our neighbour's pit at Blaydon (Mr. G. H. Ramsay's); the latter from—we know not what. The one light is white and brilliant; the other resembles, in great part, sky-blue milk. One-half of the new gas, it is stated, will give as much light as the old—and a better light. Wherever we saw the Cannel light, the consumers were unqualified in its praise; and the talk is, that "we really must have a Gateshead Cannel Coal Gas Company."—*Gateshead Observer.*

Sedbergh.—Gas works have been erected here, and are now in full operation, the town, of course, being now "brilliantly lighted up with excellent gas." Not only the whole of the shopkeepers, but a great number of the private householders are likely, it is said, to become consumers.

Ayr.—Amongst the most attractive features of our locality, says the *Ayr Observer*, are the large number of tasteful villas, with which, of late years, has been studded the "West End" of Ayr—the open ground lying betwixt the town and the race-ground. In addition to these buildings there have also been completed many new rows, of which Victoria-terrace on the South Beach, the extension of Alloway-place, and now Barns-terrace, opposite the latter, are the most prominent and extensive. The builders were Messrs. Paton and Son.

Belfast.—It is said that the late Mr. Hamilton, of Hamilton-place, in this town, has, by his will, devised 2,500*l.* towards erecting a new church, at the south side of the town; that a site has been chosen in the immediate neighbourhood of Wills-place, close to the new markets, and that building operations will be immediately commenced.—*Banner of Ulster.*

Miscellaneous.—The new church of Llandilo Talvbout was consecrated on Thursday week. At Witham the new Roman Catholic Church recently erected was consecrated on 22nd inst.

PATENT SAFES.—A case has been decided in the Court of Queen's Bench before Lord Campbell and a special jury, in which Mr. Milner was plaintiff, and Mr. Harrison, proprietor of Tann's patent safes, chests, &c., was defendant. The trial was instituted for the purpose of vindicating the exclusive right, on the part of the plaintiff, of applying liquids, or materials evolving moisture on the application of heat, together with other absorbent materials, within the chambers of boxes, safes, or depositories, calculated to pervade the chambers and contents of the safes with moisture and steam, when heated by fire, thereby preserving the papers from ignition. A verdict was given for the plaintiff.

THE PARKS.

A GLANCE over the files of THE BUILDER discovers that, for some years back, the blots and defaults of these public domains have been the theme of many a remark; and it is gratifying to find that the leading journals are dealing with the subject.

Recent intrusions have turned general attention to the regulation of these matters; and to the irresponsibly ruling power of the Woods and Forests, who "bound, sustain, adjust, and *agitate* the whole."

Since the sportive rarity in carving out the green sward near Buckingham Palace, and the mutation of site for the Marble Arch (from the sleepy hollow to the cunning corner), but little has been effected as to plantation or improvements in *any of the parks*. Primrose-hill continues in its pristine pastoral nakedness: Battersea wastes are still in shapeless barrenness, and the Regent as plashy and dank as when first laid out in plantation. There is, however, a sign of life near the Marble Arch—the carriage-drive has been diverted farther from the railings (of course with the view of showing the Arch in better aspect), and Park-lane, at that end, is, for a short distance to be *widened*: this latter change is *diverting*, but to what great *public* object can it serve? Unless a continuation of Park-lane be made through the Park from Stanhope-gate to Apsley-house; or else that, at an enormous expense, the other end of the Lane be also widened—at the inconvenient and *dangerous* thoroughfare into Piccadilly—as a great causeway, the duct is but little improved, save to those few favoured houses immediately facing the amplified portion of the route.

There is also a cab-stand placed of late in centre opposite *one* side only of Grosvenor-gate. Surely this is a blemish that could not be inflicted upon the exact locale of any *noble* residence; and is in a position the least called for or suitable in all the town. It is utterly eccentric and unrequired, or if needed at all in that quarter, Grosvenor-square would be really the most appropriate position. As, however, the noble occupants of that square would not brook it (no, not even in Brook street), we shall find no such inflictions imposed on the inhabitants.

Often have remarks on the real blots in Hyde-park appeared in THE BUILDER, and as often passed into the oblivion of hebdomadal complaints; but now the *Times* has taken up the matter, and some of the most prominent "*disgracia*" will be forced upon the reluctant attention of salaried somnolence. The *Knightsbridge-barracks*—the light-horse troop stable at Kensington—the sergeant's guard-house in the very centre of the expanse—the slyly-hidden crib, with 6 acres, where some favoured pensioner enjoys (perhaps justly) an *urban retiro*, occupying the most beautiful and sylvan portion; the waste and rubbish yard (another acre); and lastly, the powder-magazine: surely these ought to be removed, not only as obtrusions and blains on the fair plain, but as altogether useless and pernicious to valetudinarian wanderers, or to nurses and children who seek recreation in this only space available within walking distance.

If one or more barracks be needed there is ample scope further afield: Wormwood-scrubs, for instance—not a bad field for reviews, and completely removed from the swelling and extending population. For a powder-magazine that is the nearest point where so dangerous a deposit should be placed; and as for guards—Royal Blues or foot—the paraphernalia of state might be supplied from detachments lodged, say at Albany-street, or some of the other intramural stations of the Praetorian guards. For the peace of the metropolis the police has been proven not only perfectly adequate but efficient in its preservation.

Now for the range of mean hulks, shops, and houses extending from opposite Wilton-place to Albert-gate, and thence the whole way to Knightsbridge-barracks: they are, as they always have been, a stigma to the municipality of the district, or rather to the government, which does not invest every distinct circle with a conservative power in respect to local improvements.

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